Alternative fuel for CNG

3745. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have gone through the judgement of the Supreme Court of India imposing hefty penalties on bus operators who are now complying of providing CNG kits in the vehicles in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government are considering an alternative way of CNG and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has to ensure the compliance of the Supreme Court's order.

(c) In Delhi three auto LPG stations have already been commissioned and nine are ready for commissioning.

Taxes on petroleum products

†3746. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rates of Government taxes are required to be reduced with a view to check the price rise of petroleum products especially those of petrol and diesel;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether any proposal wth regard to reduce the rates of Government taxes has been worked out by Government; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism, the normal fluctuations in the international oil markets would be reflected in the domestic prices of petrol and diesel. However, Government is constantly reviewing the international oil prices, particularly the volatility and its likely impact on the domestic market. As and when Government intervention is considered necessary, appropriate measures will be taken.

Collection of cess on crude production

†3747. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 1800/- per tonne are charged as cess on the crude oil produced in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the said cess is not being charged from some producers;

(c) if so, the names of such producers and the reasons for not charging cess from them; and

(d) the extent of annual loss likely to occur due to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The cess payable on crude oil has been increased from Rs. 900 per tonne to Rs. 1800 per tonne w.e.f. 1.3.2002. Government has signed 26 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for the discovered fields with various consortia/companies, where Contractors' liability for cess on crude oil is Rs. 900 per tonne only. This provision is a part of the total fiscal package/commercial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.